

## House Resolution No. 451

**Whereas**, Velma Elsas was born on March 26, 1904, into the loving family of Herbert and Maude Elsas of Germany who had settled in Blue Mound before the birth of their daughter and who shared a love of music with her; and

**Whereas**, after a childhood filled with diverse educational and rewarding experiences, Velma Elsas started a family of her own while in her early twenties when she married Henry Jenks; and

**Whereas**, the marriage of Velma and Henry Jenks was blessed with the love and affection of two children, Donald and Carol, before Henry met an untimely death when his son was only seven years of age; and

**Whereas**, Velma Jenks became Velma Johnson when she married a farmer, Dewey Johnson, who joyfully took upon himself the responsibilities that go along with the raising of children; and

**Whereas**, Velma's children grew into adulthood to give her a daughter-in-law, Mary Watkins; a son-in-law, John Marchant (now deceased); five grandchildren, Jerry, Lynne, and Herbert Jenks, and Bill and Bruce Marchant; and ten great-grandchildren, Ashley, Jason, Seth, Golden, Kole, Henri, Marie Claire, Katherine, Christopher, and Elizabeth; and

**Whereas**, Velma Johnson admirably provided for her growing family through her efforts as a farm wife who raised livestock, chickens, vegetable gardens, and flower gardens; drove the tractor; helped bring in the crops from the fields; quilted; sewed clothes; canned food; and ensured that their home was a warm, inviting place for all; and

**Whereas**, Velma Johnson is a devoted Christadelphian who follows the Old World practices of her religion through small home Bible study groups; and

**Whereas**, a wonderful self-taught pianist, Velma Johnson is still able to entertain listeners at the Ashland Healthcare Home where she now resides:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to commemorate the Centennial Birthday of Velma Johnson and to convey to her this legislative body's heartiest best wishes for many more celebratory occasions to come in life; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Velma Elsas Jenks Johnson of Ashland, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Chuck Graham  
District No. 24

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 451, adopted February 9, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker